

IN THE CLAIMS:

All the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

1. (Previously Presented) A toner supply container detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus, said toner supply container comprising:

a container body configured to contain toner, said container body having an opening for permitting discharge of the toner; and

a sealing member configured and positioned to seal the opening,

said sealing member having a welded portion which is welded to said container body and a tearing portion which is torn upon unsealing of the opening,

wherein said welded portion has an inclined portion which is provided adjacent an end portion at which tearing starts and which is disposed laterally outside of a tearing line, said inclined portion being inclined inwardly with respect to a tearing direction.

2. (Previously Presented) A toner supply container according to Claim 1, wherein said inclined portion is rectilinearly inclined.

3. (Previously Presented) A toner supply container according to Claim 1, wherein said inclined portion is inclined with a curvature.

4. (Previously Presented) A toner supply container according to Claim 1, wherein said welded portion is provided in the region where the tearing starts with a concave portion which is concave toward a downstream direction with respect to the tearing direction.

5. (Previously Presented) A toner supply container according to Claim 1, wherein said sealing member has an extension which extends from a tearing starting side of said welded portion and which is folded back and extends to an end provided with a pulling portion.

6. (Previously Presented) A toner supply container according to Claim 1, wherein said tearing portion is formed by laser illumination.

7. (Previously Presented) A toner supply container according to Claim 1, wherein said sealing member includes a cover film welded to said container body so as to seal the opening, and a tear tape configured and positioned to tear the cover film, wherein the tearing portion is defined by the tear tape.

8. (Previously Presented) A process cartridge detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus, said process cartridge comprising:

a developing container which is effective to develop a latent image on a photosensitive member with toner;;

a toner container configured to accommodate the toner; and;

a sealing member configured and positioned to seal the opening, said sealing member having a welded portion which is welded to said toner container and a tearing portion which is torn upon unsealing of the opening,

wherein said welded portion has an inclined portion which is provided adjacent an end portion at which tearing starts and which is disposed laterally outside of a tearing line, said inclined portion being inclined inwardly with respect to a tearing direction.

9. (Previously Presented) A process cartridge according to Claim 8, wherein said inclined portion is rectilinearly inclined.

10. (Previously Presented) A process cartridge according to Claim 8, wherein said inclined portion is inclined with a curvature.

11. (Previously Presented) A process cartridge according to Claim 8, wherein said welded portion is provided in the region where the tearing starts with a concave portion which is concave toward the downstream direction with respect to the tearing direction.

12. (Previously Presented) A process cartridge according to Claim 8, wherein said tearing portion is formed by laser illumination.

13. (Previously Presented) A process cartridge according to Claim 8, wherein said sealing member includes a cover film welded to said toner container so as to seal the opening, and a tear tape configured and positioned to tear the cover film, wherein the tearing portion is defined by the tear tape.

14. (Previously Presented) A toner supply container according to Claim 1, wherein said tearing portion is provided at each of lateral sides of the opening.

15. (Previously Presented) A toner supply container according to Claim 7, wherein said tearing portion is provided at each of lateral sides of the opening.

16. (Previously Presented) A process cartridge according to Claim 8, wherein said tearing portion is provided at each of lateral sides of the opening.

17. (Previously Presented) A process cartridge according to Claim 13, wherein said tearing portion is provided at each of lateral sides of the opening.

18. (Previously Presented) A process cartridge according to Claim 8, wherein said sealing member has an extension which extends from a tearing starting side of said welded portion and which is folded back and extends to an end provided with a pulling portion.